

Apph No. 09/721,894
Amdt. Dated February 4, 2005
Response to Office action of January 12, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Specification

The Applicants have amended Page 1 of the specification. A patent number was incorrect due to a typographical error and has been replaced with appropriate patent number. The Applicants submit that this amendment introduces no new matter.

Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-17 and 19-32. By this amendment claims 1 and 17 have been amended and claims 2 and 20 have been cancelled. Therefore claims 1, 5-17, 19, 21-32 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 4-11, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24-6, and 28-29 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Bergelson et al., US 6,697,056. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bergelson et al. disclose the use of standard paper pages in combination with an electronic tablet such as the CrossPad manufactured by the IBM corporation. In that sense, the Bergelson et al patent is similar to the disclosure of Levine et al. that discloses a data processing system that provides for annotation of a document with annotations input through an electronic tablet. In the present office action the Examiner acknowledged that all of the previous claim rejections based on Levine et al. were overcome by the previous amendments. Those same amendments should have also overcome the present rejections citing Bergelson et al.

The Examiner cited Bergelson et al. at col. 3, line 50 – col. 4, line 4 as disclosing “a plurality of reference points on the page, the coded data identifying a unique location of each of the reference points relative to the page.” However, those lines of Bergelson et al. disclose location data that is written on a form by a user, it does not disclose the use of position-identifying coded data that are stored in a computer system and printed on a page by a printer. To clarify that distinction between Bergelson et al. and the present invention, the claims have been amended to recite “*wherein the visible graphic data and the invisible coded data are printed by the same printer and at the time of printing the computer system associates the type and spatial extent of each tag of the coded data with the spatial extent of at least some of the graphic data.*”

Support for the above limitation is found in the specification as filed at page 10, lines 11-17: “*The netpage consists of graphic data 2 printed using visible ink, and coded data 3 printed as a collection of tags 4 using invisible ink. The corresponding page description 5, stored on the netpage network, describes the individual elements of the netpage. In particular it describes the type and spatial extent (zone) of each interactive element (i.e. text field or button in the example), to allow the netpage system to correctly interpret input via the netpage. The submit button 6, for example, has a zone 7 which corresponds to the spatial extent of the corresponding graphic 8.*” Support for the position-indicating coded data being in the form of “tags” is provided in the specification as filed at page 13, lines 22-25: “*Each reference to the page description is encoded in a printed tag. The tag identifies the unique page on which it appears, and thereby indirectly identifies the page description. The tag also identifies its own position on the page. Characteristics of the tags are described in more detail below.*”

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According to Bergelson et al., all other position-indicating coded data is provided to a computer system only through use of the electronic tablet or "CrossPad" that is placed underneath a sheet of paper and senses the pressure of a writing instrument. That is very different from the present invention where data from a note-taking session are captured using a writing implement that interacts with coded data on printed paper pages only--and does not require the use of any electronic tablet. Further, the present claims specifically recite a printed paper page that includes coded data indicative of an identity of the page. Bergelson et al. explicitly teaches away from such page identifications that are pre-printed on forms. See for example Bergelson et al. at col. 1, lines 56-59: *"There is therefore a need for a system of automated form identification that is capable of recognizing forms used on the CrossPad, and similar devices, without relying on pre-printed information on the forms."*

Bergelson et al. do suggest that their method of form recognition could work in association with *"forms on plastic laminates or 'electronic paper' such as the 'Gyricon' product developed by Xerox Corporation...."* (See col. 2, lines 59-60.) Bergelson et al. do not provide any details of how such an embodiment of their invention would work; but presumably such an implementation of the invention by Bergelson et al. would not require the use of an electronic tablet such as the "CrossPad". There are however significant and commercially valuable distinctions between such an 'electronic paper' implementation of the invention by Bergelson et al. and the present invention of the Applicants.

The Xerox "electronic paper" described by Bergelson et al. is described in detail in a reference that has already been provided to the Examiner in an IDS and which reference has been reviewed by the Examiner. The reference is titled "Intelligent Paper" by M. Dymetman, and Max Copperman, in *Electronic Publishing, Artistic Imaging and Digital Typograhly, Proceedings of EP'98, March/April 1998, Springer Verlag LNCS 1375, pp 392-406, hereinafter Dymetman et al.*

Dymetman et al. disclose the use of Intelligent Paper defined as "standard sheets of paper entirely covered with printed marks, invisible to the human eye, but visible to [an optical pointer]" (page 393, third paragraph). Each sheet includes a *page-id*. The Intelligent Paper is then bought in bulk by, for example, a publisher, and visible graphic data is then printed over the invisible marks. See page 398, first paragraph: *"...the natural tendency of publisher to buy Intelligent Paper sheets in bulk, so that it may be known by the first router that a certain number of consecutive page-ids are 'owned' by a certain publisher."* The publisher must then manually associate each *page-id* with whatever graphic content the publisher chooses to print on the page corresponding to each *page-id*. After such manual association occurs, only then is a router able to associate a particular *page-id* with a "URL of the digital page referenced by [the] *page-id*."

Such Intelligent Paper that requires manual association between a *page-id* and visible graphic data printed on the page is very different from the Netpages disclosed in the present application. Rather than requiring such manual association, the present invention enables an automatic association between coded data including an identity of a page and graphic data printed on the page. Such automatic association is possible because the same printer prints both the coded data and the graphic data. As described above, such an automatic association between the spatial extent of the visible graphic data and the invisible coded data is now explicitly recited in the amended claims.

The Applicants submit that the other rejections of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) are now moot in light of the present claim amendments.

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Therefore it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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